



# GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

5920 Roswell Rd. • Suite A209 • Sandy Springs, GA • 30328

Contact: Viki Staley, Executive Director  
(770) 206-1556  
staleyholocaustga@comcast.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## BILL NIGUT RECEIVES GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST'S HUMANITARIAN AWARD

On April 12, 2013, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, on behalf of the State of Georgia, is hosting the annual State Official Observance "Days of Remembrance" of the victims of the Holocaust. The observance begins at 12:00 pm in the North Wing of the State Capitol.

The 2013 Humanitarian Award will be presented to Bill Nigut, Regional Director at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), an international organization dedicated to combating the bigotry toward the Jewish people and to securing justice and fair treatment for all. The Humanitarian Award is presented annually by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust to individuals or groups that have demonstrated the spirit of humanity through volunteer work, advocacy, leadership and/or philanthropy in their community, thereby fighting indifference, intolerance and injustice.

Nigut joined ADL in January, 2007, after spending three years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Metro Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition (MAACC), a unique public/private partnership dedicated to making the Atlanta region a premier center for the arts. Nigut joined MAACC in October, 2003, and as the first president of the organization, proceeded to build it from the ground up by acquiring funding, creating an organizational infrastructure and developing products and programs to benefit metro Atlanta's arts and culture community. From 1983 to 2003, Nigut served as the Political Reporter for WSB-TV. During that time he covered five presidential campaigns, reported from every national political convention from 1984 to 2000, and frequently reported news from the White House and Capitol Hill. Nigut also covered 19 sessions of the Georgia General Assembly, as well as gubernatorial, congressional and statewide election campaigns. In 1992, Nigut became the first local political reporter in the nation to create and host town hall meetings that brought then-Governor Bill Clinton and President

George H. W. Bush to Atlanta for one-hour broadcasts hosted by Nigut. Prior to those telecasts, no major party candidate for president had ever participated in local television forums.

Nigut's background is a mixture of arts, journalism and politics. He studied English and journalism at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He was a student at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he studied acting at the Goodman School of Drama. He worked as an actor in New York and Chicago. In 1970 he founded a Chicago theater company The New Chicago City Players. In 2004, Nigut and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Music Director Robert Spano created "Symphony 360," a new subscription series designed to attract new audiences to the ASO. He performed for three seasons of Symphony 360 concerts, from 2005 through 2007.

Nigut is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Jewish Committee, Atlanta chapter and the William Bremen Jewish Heritage Museum. He is a member of the Board of Advisors of Techbridge, a non-profit organization that provides technology solutions to other non-profit institutions. He is also a member of the advisory board of the Center for Educational Partnerships in Music.

Nigut has been an Atlanta resident for over 25 years. In his capacity as Southeast Regional Director for ADL he serves Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The Anti-Defamation League was founded in 1913 and now it is the nation's premier civil rights/human relations agency. ADL fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defends democratic ideals and protects civil rights for all. A leader in the development of materials, programs and services, ADL builds bridges of communication, understanding and respect among diverse groups, carrying out its mission through a network of 27 Regional and Satellite Offices in the United States and an office in Israel. It seeks to provide a model for responding to and preventing acts of hatred and for developing projects that enhance an appreciation for diversity and foster harmony. More 100 schools in Georgia are certified in the ADL program, No Place for Hate<sup>®</sup>, which enables people to challenge anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia, and all forms of bigotry in their communities and schools. Through No Place for Hate<sup>®</sup> students make the commitment to be allies, not bystanders, and to stand up against all forms of bullying and bias.

Following the presentation of this award, six candles will be lit by Holocaust survivors and Liberators in remembrance of the six million Jews that were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators.